

S E C R E T

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18 March 1949.

Subject : Operation GRAVEYARD

To : ☐ ☐

From : ☐ ☐

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1. Authorization is hereby requested to conduct subject operation, as outlined below and to expend the necessary funds, as specified in this memo.

2. Purpose of subject operation is to subsidize and otherwise promote an already existing anti-Communist and anti-Soviet group

- (a) to enable it to continue and expand its activities
- (b) to utilize it as a source of useful information, notably about the psychological situation in the Soviet Zone, about Soviet concentration camps and other secret-police methods, possibly also about enemy personalities and related matters
- (c) possibly - after further investigation and after some experience along the lines of 'a' and 'b' - also as a channel through which to recruit personnel, especially for distribution purposes in the target area.

3. The group GRAVEYARD Has been founded in Berlin, about a year ago, by a small group of young German intellectuals, with the main intention of inducing ex-inmates of prisons and concentration camps in the Soviet Zone to report in public meetings (as well as in writing) about their experiences there - an extremely difficult undertaking, considering the pledge of secrecy imposed upon any such prisoner when released and the general intimidation of the Germans in the Soviet Zone. Nevertheless, several such meetings have already been held, the first of which was already broadcast via RIAS (US-operated radio station in Berlin) and via NWDR (British-licensed radio network in Berlin and the British Zone of Germany). Considerable publicity ensued.

4. A side-effect of this publicity was that friends and relatives of prisoners resp. of persons presumed to be prisoners contacted the group, requesting information about the whereabouts of such persons. Consequently, the group began to interview each ex-prisoner in detail about all persons with whom he had had contact while in prison or camp and began to communicate such information to the interested friends and relatives, including announcement of death to the next of kin, wherever known. In the last three months, the group has received (according to its own report, written at the request of undersigned through an intermediary) no less than 11,000 such requests and has identified the whereabouts - alive or dead - of more than 6,000 prisoners. (These are not 6,000 out of those 11,000 : only 400 of those looked for were actually found - which gives an idea of the volume of arrests and deportations in the Soviet Zone)

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5. In addition to the above, the group started compiling information on all persons responsible for the arrests and deportations, resp. for the terror regime in the concentration camps of the Soviet Zone and conveyed such information to the interested Western agencies. It also compiled a number of reports on conditions part of which have been appearing in the press; a compilation of such reports was used for a German-language ISD-publication of US-Military Government. Topics treated in such reports cover, for instance

- The burial details
- The camp hospitals
- The informer system
- The private lives of the camp commanders
- The use of women prisoners for "dances and entertainment"
- Transport of prisoners into the Soviet Union
- and so forth

6. At present, the group consists of 15 persons who work for idealistic reasons; the only income of the group is pay for the articles sold, occasional donations from inquiring relatives of prisoners and some small subsidies by the agencies interested in the intelligence produced by the group (mainly CIC). Despite these handicaps, the group is at present reported to handle about 60 visitors a day and interrogate approx. 8 ex-prisoners or other political refugees from the Soviet Zone a day.

7. If given adequate support, the group promised to expand its activities as follows:

- Complete a reliability check for 5 ex-prisoners per day
- Notify 10 relatives per day
- Increase lists of MVD-informers and other persons to be "blacklisted" by 10 per day
- Write on the average one report or article per day
- Pinpoint all camps of German PWs in Soviet territory within 60 days

- Prepare a fundamental study of the prison and camp system of the Soviet Zone (described as a parallel to Eugen Kogon's DER SS-STAAAT, the most thorough study of the Nazi camp system by an ex-inmate)

8. It is proposed to begin subsidizing this group with a monthly amount of 1000 DM (One thousand Deutsche Mark), plus the equivalent of \$ 100 (One hundred Dollar) in supplies, mainly cigarettes, coffee and lard. This will serve only partly to compensate the full-time members of the group, but also for welfare of the ex-prisoners (as a necessary basis for increased interrogation etc. activities).

9. For the time being, it is proposed to conduct this operation with no direct contact on the part of undersigned, but entirely through a well-qualified American cut-out in Berlin, already figuring in another operation. This arrangement saves us also the need for a special cover since this cut-out has already been subsidizing GRAVEYARD on a small scale and can easily explain an increase in such subsidies.

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